

Resolution 2015-35

Resolution Opposing Extension of Certain Federal Trade Policies

WHEREAS: On February 4th, 2016, the Obama Administration, through the U.S. Trade Representative, signed the Transpacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement in Auckland, New Zealand; and

WHEREAS: The text of the TPP has now been made public and concerns have only grown about this and similar trade policies; and

WHEREAS: Municipalities nationwide are passing resolutions opposing these disastrous trade policies, with a particular focus on its horrific impact on employment and the sovereignty of the U.S.; and

WHEREAS: U.S. trade deals for the past 25 years have incorporated rules that skew benefits to economic and political elites while requiring working families to bear the brunt of such policies; and

WHEREAS: The growing trade deficits, driven by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), China's accession to the World Trade Organization, and the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, have displaced 700,000 jobs and 3.2 million jobs, and 75,000 jobs respectively; and

WHEREAS: U.S. employment in manufacturing dropped by 5 million from 2000 to 2015; and

WHEREAS: New Jersey has lost more than 222,000 manufacturing jobs since NAFTA took effect in 1994; and

WHEREAS: Jobs lost due to trade devastate families and entire communities and can permanently reduce lifetime earnings for hundreds of thousands of workers; and

WHEREAS: The long decline of the American manufacturing base—exacerbated by bad trade policies that reward outsourcing—has undermined our economic security and poses a direct threat to our national security; and

WHEREAS: The offshoring of manufacturing and service jobs deprives local and state governments of sorely needed revenues, jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions of public servants as well as construction workers whose jobs depend upon infrastructure building, repair and maintenance; and

WHEREAS: The offshoring of manufacturing increases air and sea transport around the Pacific Rim, thereby adding to the carbon-footprint of imported goods, and therefore increasing greenhouse gas emissions leading to further global warming and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS: The TPP includes a "docking" agreement whereby any country may agree to all provisions and join the TPP thus increasing the negative impact, geographically and economically, of all TPP provisions; and

WHEREAS: Increased global warming and extreme weather will impact the Township of Frelinghuysen and the State of New Jersey leading to increased costs for emergency response, rebuilding, adaptation and mitigation and emergency response that could be used for public jobs to build renewable energy infrastructure, retrofit and build energy efficient housing; and

WHEREAS: Under NAFTA-style trade rules, the U.S. annual trade deficit has increased dramatically from \$70 billion in 1993, the year before NAFTA went into effect, to more than \$508 billion in 2014; and

WHEREAS: The disproportionate voice of other nations and economic and political elites in the formation of U.S. "free trade" agreements has advanced an agenda that undermines human rights, the public interest and threatens democracy at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS: NAFTA and all but two of the U.S. trade deals that followed it include special legal rights for certain investors, known as "investor-to-state dispute settlement" or ISDS, that permits them to bypass state and federal courts to challenge state and local laws, regulations, and administrative and judicial decisions in secret international tribunals; and

WHEREAS: The TPP will impact community health services that provide for the underemployed, unemployed, poor and disadvantaged in the Township of Frelinghuysen and the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS: NAFTA's provisions have already been utilized in order to challenge decisions regarding local building permits as well as state bans on toxic chemicals and decisions of state courts, thereby impairing the State of New Jersey's tradition of home rule and the sovereignty of the State of New Jersey under federalism; and

WHEREAS: Promoting economic growth with equity in the Township of Frelinghuysen and the State of New Jersey requires an approach that reforms the entire trade negotiation process to ensure that voices of workers, farmers, small businesses, families and communities are heard and their interests addressed; and

WHEREAS: The TPP has been negotiated in secret, effectively shutting state and local governments out of the process, limiting our ability to influence its rules to ensure the citizens of the U.S. can participate in the benefits of trade; and

WHEREAS: Given the enactment of fast track trade negotiating authority, states, localities and their citizens will have no opportunity to correct shortcomings of the now public TPP text and Congress cannot follow normal Congressional procedure that permits full hearings and amendments; and

WHEREAS: Repeating old mistakes in negotiating new trade agreements such as the TPP represents a missed opportunity to strengthen our economy, reduce income inequality, promote sustainable growth, and address the climate crisis; and

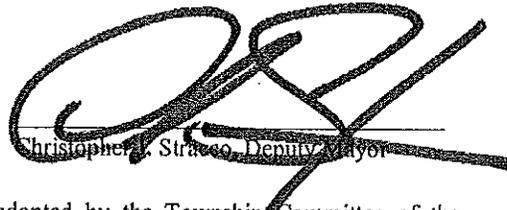
WHEREAS: the TPP is legally binding, while agreements negotiated at the United Nations Climate Talks in Paris (COP 21) are not binding, thus setting up barriers to addressing urgent climate and sustainability concerns; so

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Township of Frelinghuysen calls upon our federal elected officials – Senator Robert Menendez, Senator Corey Booker and Congressman E. Scott Garrett - to oppose the TPP and any similar trade deals, such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement (TTIP) as well as the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), if they fail to restructure the misguided and failed policies of the past; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: We call upon our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to support new trade deals only if they will:

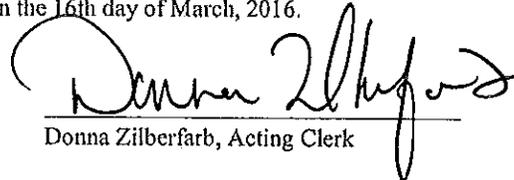
- (1) Exclude investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) and other provisions, such as those in Chapter 8: Technical Barriers to Trade and Chapter 25: Regulatory Coherence, for example, that undermine public choices;
- (2) Ensure that other nations cannot undercut U.S. based producers with weaker labor and environmental laws and enforcement;
- (3) Ensure that the U.S. will engage in robust enforcement of trade rules, including labor and environmental rules; and,
- (4) Include strong rule of origin to promote economic growth and job creation in the U.S.; promote high standards of protection for workplaces, products, and natural resources rather than promoting a race to the bottom.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen directs the Clerk of the Township to transmit copies of this Resolution to our elected officials in the US Senate and US House of Representatives.



Christopher J. Stracco, Deputy Mayor

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Frelinghuysen at a regular meeting held on the 16th day of March, 2016.



Donna Zilberfarb, Acting Clerk

Motion: Mr. Desiderio

Second: Mr. Boynton

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Boynton-Yes; Mr. DeCarolis-Yes; Mr. Desiderio-Yes;
Mr. Kuhn-Abstain; Mr. Stracco-Yes.